



# Tarpon Springs Police Department

*Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing*



January 2017

## Crime Watch Newsletter

### HOW TO PROTECT YOUR COMPUTER

**Keep Your Firewall Turned On:** A firewall helps protect your computer from hackers who might try to gain access to crash it, delete information, or even steal passwords or other sensitive information. Software firewalls are widely recommended for single computers. The software is prepackaged on some operating systems or can be purchased for individual computers. For multiple networked computers, hardware routers typically provide firewall protection.

**Install or Update Your Antivirus Software:** Antivirus software is designed to prevent malicious software programs from embedding on your computer. If it detects malicious code, like a virus or a worm, it works to disarm or remove it. Viruses can infect computers without users' knowledge. Most types of antivirus software can be set up to update automatically.

**Install or Update Your Antispyware Technology:** Spyware is just what it sounds like—software that is surreptitiously installed on your computer to let others peer into your activities on the computer. Some spyware collects information about you without your consent or produces unwanted pop-up ads on your web browser. Some operating systems offer free spyware protection, and inexpensive software is readily available for download on the Internet or at your local computer store. Be wary of ads on the Internet offering downloadable antispyware—in some cases these products may be fake and may actually contain spyware or other malicious code. It's like buying groceries—shop where you trust.

**Keep Your Operating System Up to Date:** Computer operating systems are periodically updated to stay in tune with technology requirements and to fix security holes. Be sure to install the updates to ensure your computer has the latest protection.

**Be Careful What You Download:** Carelessly downloading e-mail attachments can circumvent even the most vigilant anti-virus software. Never open an e-mail attachment from someone you don't know, and be wary of forwarded attachments from people you do know. They may have unwittingly advanced malicious code.

**Turn Off Your Computer:** With the growth of high-speed Internet connections, many opt to leave their computers on and ready for action. The downside is that being "always on" renders computers more susceptible. Beyond firewall protection, which is designed to fend off unwanted attacks, turning the computer off effectively severs an attacker's connection—be it spyware or a botnet that employs your computer's resources to reach out to other unwitting users.



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FIRE SAFETY TIP**

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DO.**

### Get An Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN)

#### What's an IP PIN?

An IP PIN is a six-digit number assigned to eligible taxpayers that helps prevent the misuse of their Social Security number on fraudulent federal income tax returns.

**Important:** You currently can't opt-out once you get an IP PIN. You must use your IP PIN to confirm your identity on all federal tax returns you file this year and in future tax years. We'll reject your e-file return if your IP PIN is missing or incorrect. If you file a paper return and your IP PIN is missing or incorrect, we'll delay its processing for your protection while we confirm it's your return.

#### Getting Your IP PIN

To get your IP PIN, you must be eligible as determined in Step 1 below. You'll receive your IP PIN online once we verify your identity. We'll send you a new IP PIN each December by postal mail.

#### Determine your eligibility...

You must get an IP PIN to file your current or prior year tax returns in 2017 if:

You received a CP01A Notice with your new IP PIN and you lost it, or

You had an IP PIN before and you didn't receive a new one, or

We rejected your e-file return because your IP PIN was missing or incorrect

You may choose to get an IP PIN if:

You received an IRS letter inviting you to 'opt-in' to get an IP PIN, or

You filed your federal tax return last year with an address in Florida, Georgia or the District of Columbia

**Note:** Users who choose to get an IP PIN must do so using this online IP PIN application.

#### What you need...

To register and use this service, you need:

Your Social Security number, date of birth, filing status and mailing address from your latest tax return,

Access to your email account,

Your credit card number or account number from a car loan, mortgage, home equity loan or home equity line of credit, and

A mobile phone with your name on the account.

#### Get your IP PIN!

To get an IP PIN, you must:

Pass our identity verification secure access process, and

Create a user profile

## Retrieving Your IP PIN

If you lost your CP01A Notice containing your IP PIN or you didn't receive your new one, you can retrieve it by following the 3 steps above for "Getting Your IP PIN." You'll receive your current IP PIN after we verify your identity.

If for any reason you're unable to retrieve your IP PIN using our Get an IP PIN tool, you may contact us for specialized assistance. After our assistor verifies your identity, we'll mail your current IP PIN to your address of record. Visit Retrieve Your IP PIN for details.

## Additional Information

Visit FAQs about the IP PIN for more information. Visit our Identity Protection page if you don't meet any of the IP PIN eligibility requirements in Step 1 above and you believe you're a victim of identity theft.

## Credit Security Freeze with Equifax

If you've placed a credit security freeze with Equifax, you must contact Equifax to have the freeze temporarily removed to allow us to verify your identity. Once you have your IP PIN or are no longer attempting to register, you may contact Equifax to resume the freeze unless you scheduled it to resume automatically.

## FIRE SAFETY TIPS

### Children

Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching children that fire is a tool, not a toy.

Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, preferably in a locked cabinet.

Teach children not to pick up matches or lighters they may find. Instead, they should tell an adult immediately.

Never leave children unattended near operating stoves or burning candles, even for a short time.

Check under beds and in closets for burned matches, evidence your child may be playing with fire.

### More Prevention Tips

Avoid using lighted candles.

Never use the range or oven to heat your home.

Replace mattresses made before the 2007 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard. Mattresses made since then are required by law to be safer.

Keep combustible and flammable liquids away from heat sources.

Portable generators should NEVER be used indoors and should only be refueled outdoors or in well ventilated areas.

For more Information contact Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue at 727-938-3737



# THINGS TO DO IN TARPON SPRINGS

## Photo Scavenger Hunt

January 28th, 2017

A fun event that is a great team building experience and fun for all ages. Teams of 4 individuals are given a list of fun and funny things to photograph in a four hour period throughout Tarpon Springs. Each photo is worth points. (Event completed its 3rd year)

## MOVIES AT CRAIG PARK

The Tarpon Springs Recreation Department will be hosting monthly Movies in Craig Park. Grab your lawn chairs and come enjoy the show. Popcorn and other concessions will be available. Call for movie listings 727-942-5628.

Movies begin at Dusk

Friday, January 27

Friday, February 24

Friday, March 24

## SUNSET BEACH CONCERT SERIES - Sponsored by

### Ferman Chevrolet of Tarpon Springs

Concerts are on the first Thursday of the month (February through November) and start at 7pm. Bonfires, weather permitting, at the February, March, October and November concerts. Concessions are available for purchase. Alcohol and pets are prohibited. Parking is limited onsite, so a courtesy shuttle will deliver concert goers to and from the beach and Tarpon Springs High School. FREE!!

2017 Concert Series Dates:

February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2.



TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPT.

444 SOUTH HUEY AVENUE

TARPON SPRINGS, 34689

EMERGENCY # 911

NON EMERGENCY:

(727) 938-2849

CRIME PREVENTION :

(727) 937-8753

WE ARE ON THE WEB AT

[WWW.TSPD.US](http://WWW.TSPD.US)

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